

May 13, 2022

Re: Docket No. L-2019-3010267: Hazardous Liquid Public Utility Safety Standards – Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

To the Commission,

Reading the numerous favorable comments concerning the oil and gas industry in the proposed enhanced PUC regulations one theme is reiterated, which is that the safety regulations will impose a cost on the industry. However, the question is not whether a cost will be imposed but if the cost is warranted to protect the health and safety of PA residents. The answer to this question must be dictated by the unassailable principle that people proceed profits, which the oil and gas industry has yet to but must comprehend.

Additionally, for whatever economic reasons proposed, the bottom line is that recent oil and gas industry profits in particular have increased dramatically. This obviously benefits shareholders and burdens common, everyday hard working Americans.

But, despite these record breaking oil and gas industry profits, PA unconscionably continues to subsidize the fossil fuel industry with lenient health and safety requirements and tax advantages year after year. Yet, inconceivably, the oil and gas industry contends the proposed minimal safety regulations are so burdensome that the proposed safety regulations will adversely impact the industries “ bottom line”. The industry must conclude that PA wage earners, who generate more PA tax revenue than the oil and gas industry are not in the business of subsidizing the fossil fuel industry in addition to being subjected to the health and safety hazards imposed by the industry.

The proposed new HVL pipeline safety regulations such as requiring a minimal burial pipe depth and distance and placing an odorant in the product are by definition mandatory basic pipeline safety procedures, not points of argument. Automatic leak detection and immediate notification are without question essential minimal requirements as well.

The PUC needs to elect all the new proposed regulations in order to offer a modicum of health and safety protection to PA residents. The unequivocal truth is that PA residents actually require much more protection so to not establish the enhanced guidelines, at the very least, would be tantamount to reckless endangerment to the common everyday tax paying and voting citizens of PA.

The opportunity to comment on proposed regulations to minimally protect the health and safety of PA residents is sincerely appreciated.

Respectfully,

Lora Snyder
Edgmont Township